

# OUR PARLOUR PANORAMA



WITH  
83 ILLUSTRATIONS

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Book: Our Parlour Panorama

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OUR PARLOUR  
PANORAMA.

*By*

*MRS. GEORGE CUPPLES.*

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WITH EIGHTY-TWO ILLUSTRATIONS.

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## Preface.

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 HIS series of pictures, under the title of "Our Parlour Panorama," is intended to show us some pleasant views and scenes in many lands. It is to be hoped, too, that the information conveyed along with them, though necessarily brief, may prove profitable as well as entertaining. Now that you are comfortably seated, I would crave your attention, as the curtain is about to rise on our journey. We take for our starting-point London, the largest city in the world, as no doubt you all know. Some of you, however, may not as yet have had the privilege of visiting this great city, therefore I will do my best to point out to you some of the most interesting views as we sail down the river.



**H**ERE are three natives of Algiers. The middle one is a soldier. The other man is either a juggler by profession, or is only amusing himself by playing with this string and balls. The woman is a water-carrier. See how cleverly she is pouring the water from her skin bag into the stone jar!

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DON'T wonder at you laughing at this very strange nurse. This is a sight often seen in India; and let me tell you the elephant is often far more careful of its little charge than many a nursemaid. I remember hearing a gentleman (an officer) telling about one he saw from his room window. It had been left in charge of a very small baby, and it allowed the baby to crawl about round and round its thick legs; but the moment it crawled away it lifted the baby up with its trunk and brought it back again to the shelter of its huge body. Every now and then it would twist its trunk round the waist of the child and swing it gently to and fro.




**THIS** man has done some deed worthy of honour, and the chief is presenting him with a beautiful robe called a khelaut. I hope every one of his companions is pleased; but it is a well-known fact that much jealousy exists at the courts of Eastern princes, which leads to much unhappiness.

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**T**HIS is the wonderful Taj, which holds within its lovely dome of white marble the remains of the beautiful and greatly beloved wife of the Emperor Shah Jehan. If I had time I could tell you a great deal about the beauty of its carving, its inlaid work, and the wonderful echo in the dome. When people look upon the Taj for the first time, they are greatly impressed at the sight of its wonderful beauty.

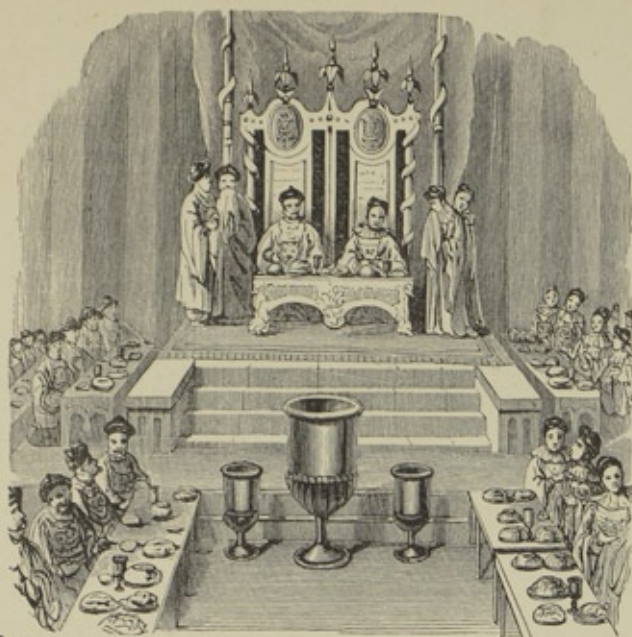



**W**E now pay a visit to a tea garden. The men are gathering the tea leaves from the old plants and carrying them away in baskets. Tea shrubs must be three years old before the leaves are gathered. Some of the men are watering the young plants, so that there may be a good crop in the years to come. The tea plant is a hardy evergreen, grows from three to six feet in height, and is of the same order as the camellia, the flowers of which are also used to give fragrance to tea.

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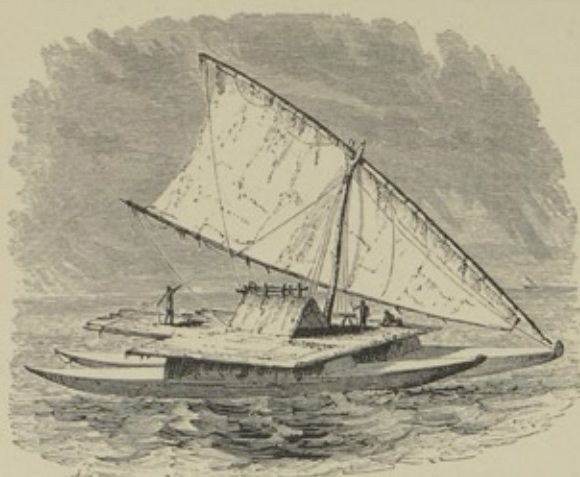



 HIS is a state dinner ; and a very fine affair it seems to be. The Chinese eat with chop-sticks ; and though it is supposed they live upon rats and mice, and all sorts of things we shudder to think of, still they have fine feasts, and eat all sorts of good things, and drink wine. It is a pity we cannot see the very small feet of the ladies. I am sure it would make you laugh to see them, though I daresay they suffer a good deal from having them cramped up when they are young.



**W**E have now found our way to Australia ; and here we see two of the natives sitting before each other having a private "palaver." They would be looked upon by us as a set of lazy fellows ; for they neither farm the land nor are they shepherds, and never think of putting a seed or a plant into the ground for themselves, though they are very fond of the fruit introduced by the white men. Their principal food is the opossum, and if they are near a river they fish a little, and when very hungry even eat reptiles and insects.





**T**HIS is a canoe belonging to the Tonga or Friendly Islands, in the South Pacific Ocean. When you are old enough, you will be able to read all about them, and how Captain Cook thought this would be a good name for them, because the natives all seemed to live on such friendly terms with one another, and from their politeness to strangers. They live upon cocoa-nuts, yams, hogs, fowls, fish, and shell-fish. They are very fond of bathing themselves in ponds; and even though stagnant, they prefer them to the water of the sea. The natives are tall, strong, and handsome, but inclined to be rather indolent. The church is built on the highest point of the island.



YOU would laugh if you knew why these black savages are looking so surprised. It is at sight of the white men. They never had seen such people before. Some of their friends had, and had got pieces of cloth from them, which they are wearing now ; but this company had never seen a white man. They are holding out their hands to them, and showing by signs that they are glad to see them. Coming slowly forward to meet them, it is no wonder if they are somewhat afraid, as savages are often treacherous.





**W**E have now arrived in America, and have embarked on board one of the large saloon steamers for a sail up one of the rivers. You will notice an American steamer is very different in construction from the steamers we are accustomed to see on our rivers or sailing from our ports; but no doubt they are found more useful and more convenient for American passengers. It must be very pleasant to sit in the saloon looking out at the houses built by the margin of the river, as we sail along.



**T**HERE is an unfortunate hunter, who has been out after a bison. It looks as if it meant to gore him; but the North American Indian is hastening to help him. See what a long, sharp knife the hunter has in his hand!





**H**ERE we see some negroes on a cotton plantation in the Southern States of America. See how busy they are. The cotton plant is a beautiful shrub, somewhat larger than a gooseberry bush, bearing large flowers, generally yellow, and not unlike those of the hollyhock. The fruit is a pod about the size of a pigeon's egg, in which are seeds not unlike small brown peas, and covered all over with fine white hairs sometimes more than an inch in length. When these hairs are separated by machinery from the seeds they become cotton wool.



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**N**OW we must get into this train, and set out for another country. See what a fine starry night it is; and there's the moon at its first quarter. You may go to sleep for a little, if you like, as we have a long journey to make; so shut your eyes, unless you prefer to look a little longer at the stars. I think we cannot do better than pay a visit to South America.

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**T**HERE is a little boy having a delightful sail in a little canoe all by himself, and he is getting along through the water without either paddle or oar. This is, I feel certain, the son of one of the chiefs, and he has got his servant—a slave, perhaps—to take the rope between his teeth and go swimming about the water. It is to be hoped there is no horrid creature lurking about under the water, ready to snap off the legs of the poor fellow.



THIS man belongs to a tribe of Fuegians who inhabit both sides of the Strait of Magellan. They live entirely on fish and wild fowl, and they spend most of their time in their canoes. The canoes are made from the bark of trees, sewed together and glued. It must be winter with him, for in summer they wear very little clothing. But he has got on his white robe made of the skin of the sea-wolf, which they kill with their spears and arrows. The Fuegians who live on the island of Tierra del Fuego wear no head-dresses.






**HERE** are some French peasants. The women have come out to purchase fruit at the fruit-stalls, and are taking the opportunity to have a little gossip. A Frenchman likes to be out in the open air as much as possible; and so should we too, if our climate were as delightful as it is in sunny France. It must be very queer to see the people taking their meals out of doors, and sitting with their work, while the men smoke their pipes. The French are a very happy, light-hearted people.

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**L**ET us now take a peep at some of the different countries of Europe.

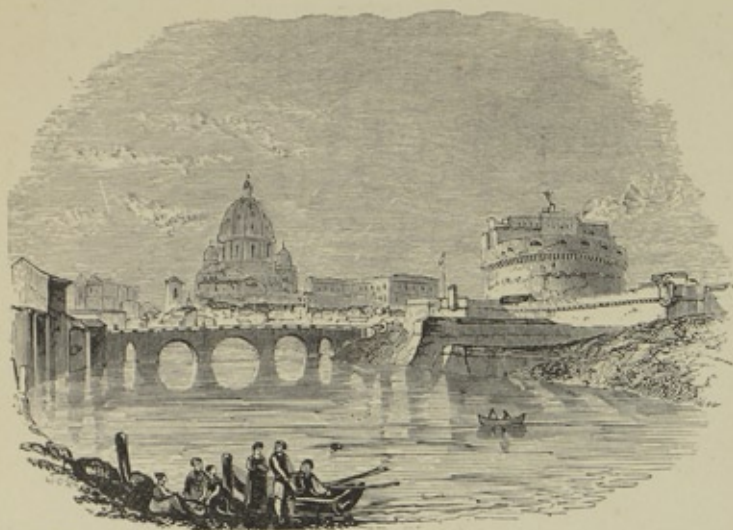
Our first stopping-place is Switzerland. This is a portion of the Alps. On their heights snow is always to be found. But where they approach the open, level country, which is much warmer, they are often crowned with large forests. Vast masses of snow and ice often separate from the mountains, and sliding down, overturn everything in their course, and sometimes cause great loss of life.





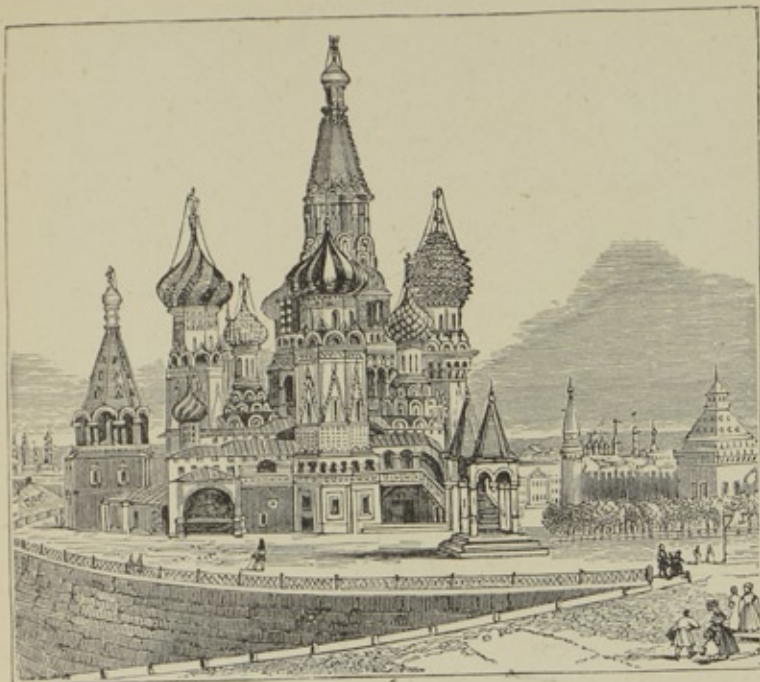
**T**HERE we now see two monks of St. Bernard (a mountain of the Alps) sending off one of their faithful and most intelligent dogs in search of travellers. The snow is falling very thickly, and the monks are afraid that some one may have set out and have now been overtaken in the storm. In a very few moments the path will be covered, and the traveller may become confused, and lose his way.

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NOW we pay a visit to Rome. The dome-shaped building in the centre is the Church of St. Peter's, the largest and most splendid Christian church in the world, and said to have cost £12,000,000 sterling to build it. It was begun in 1506, and many great architects died while having charge of it. The dome was finished in May 1590, the work having been carried on from 1588 night and day by six hundred workmen; and when the last stone had been blessed by the Pope, it was fixed in its place at the sound of a discharge of cannon from the Castle of St. Angelo, the building to the right.





THE view of Moscow is very fine indeed. The numerous towers give the city quite an Oriental appearance. The most remarkable of the hills on which Moscow stands is the Kremlin. It is enclosed by a wall two miles in circuit, and is crowded with palaces, churches, monasteries, and museums. Near the cathedral is the largest bell in the world, weighing nearly two hundred tons, and believed never to have been rung.



T is in the ice-bound regions of the North that the Aurora Borealis is seen in all its grandeur. It is more commonly known as the Northern Lights. How it must help to cheer the inhabitants of those dark regions. See, the reindeer belonging to this Lapland village is walking about in search of its supper, and has found a nice tuft of coarse grass sheltering behind a stone. This floating wall of light completely blocks out the sky, so that nothing can be seen of the stars for several hours at a time.





**T**HERE are two Eskimos, and one has fallen into the water. His friend is doing his best to stop his dogs, that he may pull him out. Now, you must know that Eskimo dogs are sometimes very provoking. If a sledge remains fast in the deep snow, these animals, instead of helping to get it out by pulling all together, actually lie quietly down, and appear full of joy at the accident. Now, you would think, to see the determined way they are dashing off, that they meant to leave the poor Eskimo in the water to drown; but I hope the man will be saved.

AND now the pictures in my Panorama are exhausted, and the curtain must once more fall. I thank you for your attention, and hope that what you have seen and heard may induce you to read for yourselves accounts of foreign lands and their inhabitants. Every one cannot travel, but all can find out much—either by reading, or listening while others read aloud—about the different countries of the globe; and no pleasanter hour can be spent than with a good atlas spread out before you, and a friend willing to answer your intelligent questions.

THE END.